

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OECD DATA PROCESSING AND STATISTICS REPORT

REF: PARIS 24187

1. WE CAN ACCEPT DRAFT ENTRY IN COUNCIL MINUTES PROPOSED IN C(78)145 (PARA 1 REFTEL) UNDER WRITTEN PROCEDURE.
2. WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF DATA PROCESSING AND STATISTICS REPORT AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY IN BUDGET AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION IN TIME FOR ACTION AS PART OF 1979 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET.

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3. AS MISSION AWARE, WE HAVE URGED UPGRADING AND REORGANIZATION OF OECD DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE RECOGNIZE NEED TO BUILD SUPPORT AMONG MEMBERS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE (BUT NOT EXCESSIVE) RESOURCES FOR THIS EFFORT. MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS IN BUDGET AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, IN TERMS LAYMEN CAN UNDERSTAND (AND C(78)145 IS A STEP IN THAT

DIRECTION), IS ONE WAY TO BUILD SUCH SUPPORT. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BY MISSION PERSONNEL WITH OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS MAY ALSO BE DESIRABLE.

4. MISSION SHOULD BEAR FOLLOWING IN MIND WHEN DISCUSSING DATA PROCESSING AND STATISTICS REPORT, WHICH WAS RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT AUGUST 3:

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF WHATEVER PLAN FOR UPGRADING DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES IS FINALLY SELECTED SHOULD BE STAGED OVER SEVERAL YEARS SO AS TO MINIMIZE BUDGETARY IMPACT IN ANY ONE YEAR, WITH MORE URGENT NEEDS BEING MET FIRST.

B. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL -- SOME NEW RESOURCES ARE OBVIOUSLY REQUIRED, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH PLANNING AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT -- SHOULD BE HELD TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. STAFFING SUGGESTED IN C(78)145 APPEARS AMBITIOUS. (TABLE 3 INDICATES 25 ADDITIONAL POSITIONS FOR THE DPSS DIRECTORATE AND 4 ADDITIONAL POSTS FOR THE AMS DIVISION.) WHETHER ALL PROPOSED NEW POSITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL AND ALL EXISTING POSITIONS SHOULD BE RETAINED NEEDS TO BE EVALUATED.

C. COMPUTER CAPABILITY IN EXCESS OF ORGANIZATION'S NEEDS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. FEATURES/CAPABILITIES WHICH WOULD BE USED ONLY INFREQUENTLY ARE UNNECESSARY.

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D. WE PREFER AN INDEPENDENT DATA PROCESSING UNIT TO WHICH ALL USERS WOULD HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS.

E. DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES MUST MEET NEEDS OF BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE FLEXIBILITY IS ESSENTIAL TO THIS END.

F. SENSITIVE NATURE OF SOME OECD (ESPECIALLY IEA) CONTROLLED DATA REQUIRES ADEQUATE SECURITY FEATURES TO BE BUILT INTO OECD DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES/SYSTEMS.

G. THERE MUST BE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR REMOTE INTERACTIVE ACCESS TO OECD'S STATISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATA BASES AND TO THE OECD'S INSTRUMENTS OF QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS, SUBJECT TO CONSTRAINT NOTED IN (F) ABOVE. SUCH REMOTE INTERACTIVE ACCESS WOULD DO MUCH TO RESOLVE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE USERS.
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